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NIC #04244-88/4  
12 July 1988  
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SUBJECT: SNIE 14.3-88: Vietnam in Transition: Prospects for  
and Implications of Reform  
SNIE 57-88: Cambodia: Improving Prospects for a  
Settlement

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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #04244-88/4

12 July 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR: Senior Review Panel

VIA: Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM: Carl W. Ford, Jr.  
National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

SUBJECT: SNIE 14.3-88: Vietnam in Transition: Prospects for  
and Implications of Reform  
SNIE 57-88: Cambodia: Improving Prospects for a  
Settlement

1. Attached for your comment are precoordination drafts of SNIE 14.3-88: Vietnam in Transition: Prospects for and Implications of Reform, and SNIE 57-88: Cambodia: Improving Prospects for a Settlement. The Vietnam estimate was drafted by [ ] DE/DIA. The Cambodia settlement paper was drafted by [ ]/CIA, with contributions from [ ].

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2. The production schedule originally provided for only one paper, Vietnam: What Do Recent Leadership Changes Portend? You commented on this paper last year, and many of your suggestions were incorporated into the initial draft. As it became clear that internal developments in Vietnam were a major factor in the improving prospects for a Cambodian settlement, new sections were drafted to include these findings. Evelyn Colbert, an outside consultant and former NIO was asked to review the revised draft. She recommended that the Cambodia section be greatly expanded or a new estimate focusing on a settlement be prepared.

3. NIO/EA conducted a June warning meeting on the prospects for a Cambodia settlement, and the proceedings were crafted into the present SNIE.

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4. Various combinations--one estimate combining the two papers; a Vietnam estimate with a Cambodia annex; and a Cambodia estimate with a Vietnam annex, etc.--were tried before settling on the present two-SNIE approach. The Cambodia estimate is of great interest to the policy community and particularly timely. The Vietnam estimate examines in some detail the reasons behind Hanoi's changed outlook regarding domestic reform and its approach to Cambodia and other foreign policy issues.

5. Given the high policy interest in both estimates, they will be moved forward together as fast track SNIes. Community representatives will meet to coordinate both papers in late July. Your comments will be incorporated at the coordination.



Carl W. Ford, Jr.

Attachments:  
As stated

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